2 CR
12

THE

CASTRATED SHEET

In the SIXTH VOLUME of

BIOGRAPHIA BRITANNICA,

CONTAINING

A curious Letter of Sir Thomas Hanmer,

Wherein is diſcovered

The firſt Riſe of the preſent Biſhop of *Glouceſter*'s Quarrel with that Bart. about his Edition of

SHAKESPEARE's PLAYS.

To which is prefixed,

An IMPARTIAL ACCOUNT

Of the extraordinary Means employed to

SUPPRESS this Remarkable LETTER.

By a PROPRIETOR of that Work.

Quantum Ingenii, Tantum Iræ. CAPNIO.

LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR, and ſold by J. PRIDDEN, at the Feathers in Fleet-Street.

MDCCLXIII.

12

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

TO MY

FELLOW-PROPRIETORS

OF

BIOGRAPHIA BRITANNICA.

PERMIT me, Gentlemen, to lay before you the following Papers, in which you are particularly concerned. They contain the ſimple, undiſguiſed Narrative of a fact, ſo extraordinary in itſelf, as to ſtand in need of a ſufficient evidence to ſupport the truth of it. To you therefore it is ſubmitted, as ſo many inconteſtible vouchers to the public. Juſtice to your work, and the encouragers of it, has extorted, though with ſome reluctance, the preſent publication; which is done without your privity: for though a majority of you, out of ſuch conſiderations as will appear in this account, were finally prevailed on to cancel the curious and, as it happens, unpardonably offenſive letter of Sir THOMAS HANMER, yet ſome there were then, and are ſtill among you, who never agreed to it, and who had ſpirit enough to diſdain the notorious injury done thereby to their property. Neither indeed were others untouched with a juſt ſenſibility thereof: nor was it ſubmitted to at laſt, till all ſuch means to prevent it, as became their ſtation and calling, had proved ineffectual. Further applications have been made ſince, to obtain leave for its reſtoration. Yet theſe have not only proved fruitleſs, but have been even treated with contempt. The principal author of the injury

ſtill

ſtill remains inflexible and inexorable; and that too, notwithſtanding a ſufficient intimation given him of publiſhing it in ſuch a manner as would not be leſs diſagreeable to him than the firſt attempt.

It was hoped, and for a long time believed, that ſince the ſubject of the letter relates only to a mere point of profane criticiſm, which paſſed many years ago, it would be deemed (as it really is by myſelf) not worthy of ſo indignant a notice; but on the contrary would rather be ſlighted by a Divine who had with the beſt judgment given this part of his Authorſhip to the winds *, and whoſe Theological merit is univerſally acknowledged, and particularly revered by

Your humble Servant,

A PROPRIETOR.

* See an advertiſement prefixed to the editions of Mr Pope's works, printed after his death.

AN

ſollicitation, procure a charter of mortmain, in May 1732, to enable the college to take theſe ſeveral benefactions (s), not to mention what he gave himſelf by his will, which was very conſiderable (t). Such extraordinary ſervices will always ſtand as ſo many memorials of his paternal affection for the college *, and of his generous principle in employing that intereſt for the ſociety, which might have been of ſervice to himſelf. He declined the office of Vice-chancellor, on account of the infirm ſtate of his health, through a tenderneſs of conſtitution, which, as he advanced in years, occaſioned frequent confinement; otherwiſe no perſon was better qualified to ſupport the dignity of that poſt. However, as long as he was able, and the ſtatutes of the college would admit, he diſcharged the duty of his pariſh at St Dionis; the cure of mens ſouls being the principal ingredient in his character. He uſed frequently to retire for his health, in the ſummer ſeaſon, to his *villa* at Kidlington, where he purchaſed a manor and eſtate, now in the poſſeſſion of his family, which though near Oxford, ſeemed formed for ſuch a retirement as he grew latterly very fond of: It gave him a ſingular pleaſure in the enjoyment of a few ſelect friends, and thoſe whom he liked; in whoſe company he would be very chearful and diverting, without ſcandal or reflecting

(s) He alſo procured, by his intereſt, ſeveral conſiderable private benefactions, of which 300*l.* was the gift of Thomas Lewis, of Soberton in Hants, Eſq; whoſe daughter and heir was mother to Lord Plymouth, ſome time a member of this college; and the Biſhops, Lamplugh, Smith, Nicholſon, Crew, Gibſon, Tanner, Maddox, were all benefactors to the buildings.

(t) Not leſs than 700*l.* as I am informed, beſides what he gave to the college buildings in the Provoſtſhip of Dr Lancaſter, &c.

* See the particulars in the dedication to Dr Smith of Mr Simpſon's elegant edition of Epictetus, &c. 8vo.

ſerved as to the Bachelor-Scholars, and that the Bachelors ſhould undergo, as near as might be, the ſame examinations as are required upon elections at All-Souls college. And that after ſuch firſt election, the Fellowſhips ſhould be filled up by ſuch Bachelor-Scholars, as had taken the degree of Maſter of Arts, or ſhould be within one year thereof, and that other Scholars ſhould be choſen in their places, &c. That both the Maſters and Bachelors ſhould be ſubject to the ſtatutes and government of the college, as to all conformity, diſcipline, and obedience to ſuperiors (taking Orders by the Maſters, or the exerciſe of rendering by the Bachelors, only excepted). That there ſhould be a building erected for the reception of the ſaid Maſters and Bachelors, conſiſting of two entire and regular ſtair-caſes, uniform both within, and conformable to the new building without, to begin from the eaſt corner of the college next to the high-ſtreet, and go on northwards towards the chapel; wherein ſhould be eight chambers in the middle ſtory for the Fellows, and four chambers for the Scholars in the upper or lower ſtory, and the other ſtory to be filled with ſuch under-graduates of the college as they ſhould think fit to place therein, to be their attendants. That their allocations in the chapel and hall ſhould be appointed ſuitable to their rank and degree, and their commons allotted, as near as might be, in the ſame proportion as their Fellows and Taberders. That the rents and profits of his eſtates, from the time of his death, ſhould be received by the Burſar of the college. That the firſt receipts ſhould be applied to erect the ſaid buildings, and Robert Shippen, D. D. Principal of Brazen-noſe-college, John Mather, D. D. Preſident of Corpus-Chriſti college, and John Coxed, B. C. L. Warden of New-college, together with Joſeph Smith, D. D. Provoſt of Queen's college, to be ſuperviſors or directors of the ſaid buildings; after the finiſhing of which, the ſociety to proceed to an election of Fellows and Scholars, as abovementioned. He alſo appointed Dr Shippen, Dr Mather, and Dr Coxed, Viſitors of his ſmall ſociety, to determine finally all grievances and complaints; which Viſitors are to meet annually upon St Bartholomew's-day, at the college, to audit the accounts of the Burſars, and to give directions to them for the application of the rents; and that upon the demiſe of one of the preſent Viſitors, another ſhould within one month be choſen by the ſenior of the two ſurviving, but to be a Doctor of Divinity or Doctor of Civil Law, and Head or Fellow of ſome other college or hall, reſident in Oxford. That the clear yearly rents and profits of the ſaid eſtates amounted to the ſum of 500*l.* or thereabouts, upon an average. That the money received by the Burſars, ſince the teſtator's death, amounted to the ſum of 5241*l.* 11*s.* 0*d.* ¾, of which 1265*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* had been paid to Queen's-college, to reimburſe them for building the half ſtair-caſe next the ſtreet, and 3825*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* had been laid out in the purchaſe of 4116*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* three per cent. Bank annuities, in the name of the ſaid college; and the remainder, being 524*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* ¾, remained in the hands of the Burſars. Moreover, it is hereby enacted, that the ſum of 2000*l.* ſhall be paid out of the rents and profits of the above bequeathed eſtates, to the ſociety of Queen's-college, in ſatisfaction for the inheritance of the ground on which the aforementioned chambers ſtand, and for all claims of ground-rent, as alſo for all the immunities, privileges, and advantages, which the Fellows and Scholars of Mr Michel's foundation ſhall have and enjoy, in the uſe of the public library, chapel, hall, kitchen, buttery, and cellars, of the ſaid college, and by the uſe of the furniture and goods, in common uſe in the ſaid college, and in the attendance and ſervice of all the officers, lecturers, readers, moderators, and ſervants, and the uſe of the garden, quadrangles, courts, and other public places, in the ſaid college, and all other common advantages and emoluments; the ſaid Fellows and Scholars of Mr Michel's foundation reſpectively paying, in reſpect of any of the ſame, only ſuch fees, and ſo much for decrements, as the Fellows and other members of like rank and degree of Queen's-college, do or ſhall pay; as alſo, as in full compenſation and ſatisfaction for repairing the buildings for the Fellows and Scholars of Mr Michel's foundation, and their attendants, which the ſaid Provoſt and Scholars are for ever hereafter to ſupport and maintain, both within and without, at their own proper coſts and charges.

Mr Michel alſo gave, in his life time, a large picture of Queen Mary, to the college hall, and preſented the college with his own pedigree, very curiouſly done, at the expence of 100*l.* and is rolled out. He gave them likewiſe a valuable collection of coins, and ſome books upon that ſubject, which are repoſited in the library, as appears by the following inſcription in Latin:

Eleganti huic & copioſo univerſæ literaturæ repoſitorio (a) *non ſolum libros aliquot ſelectos de re nummaria, ſed cimeliorum etiam archivis Seriem Unam æſtimabilem Numiſmatum Romanorum, viz. Imperatorum capita, aliaque numero* 175 *ære majore inciſa: Alteram vero argenteorum ejuſdem fili circa* 298. *Induſtria collecta, impenſis perquiſita, & cura conſervata*

Donat Dicatque

Johannes Michel, de Richmond in com. Surrey, Armiger. *Hujus collegii generoſo commenſalis, anno Domini* 1676—1680.

Cujus pater Johannes, patruuſque Humfredus (uterque ejuſdem ordinis) in ſæculo rebellionis nunquam ſatis deflendæ ſedem quietam per 14 *annos hic invenerunt.*

Oxoniâ obſeſſâ Prior ad Carolum Regem ultro ſe contulit, & ab ipſo, inter alia fiduciæ negotia, commiſſionem de armandis ſcholaribus ad aras & focos defendendos tuto reportavit anno 1644.

Alter vero cælibem vitam agens, procul ambitu procul negotiis Deo & ſtudiis ſolum vacavit. Hoſpitium decem ſenibus alendis Richmondiæ fundavit; nepotemque hunc unicum (a cunis orphanum) & vivens & moriens (26) *filii loco habuit.*

The alms-houſe here mentioned ſtands upon the declivity of the hill; it was built in 1695, and was endowed by the uncle with upwards of 100*l.* per annum, which afterwards was conſiderably increaſed by the nephew (27), who died September 5, 1739 (28), and was buried at Old Windſor with his anceſtors, who had a large ſeat and eſtate there, whereof a conſiderable part deſcended to him (29).

(a) This library, which is of the Corinthian order *, was built by Dr Halton, a great part at his own expence, beſides his ſtudy of books. The ſum of 600*l.* was given alſo by his tutor, Dr Tho. Smith, ſome time a Fellow of the college, and then Biſhop of Carliſle †, which biſhoprick he obtained by the intereſt of Sir Joſeph Williamſon ‡, who was his pupil; and gave alſo to the library a curious and valuable collection of manuſcripts, eſpecially in Heraldry, and Memoirs of his foreign Negotiations. To theſe Sir John Floyer, an eminent Phyſician at Lichfield in Staffordſhire, added his library, containing many excellent books. The building was begun in 1693, on account of the legacy of Dr Tho. Barlow, Biſhop of Lincoln, ſome time Provoſt of the college, who bequeathed the greateſt part of his books and manuſcripts to it, leaving the reſt to the Bodleian library, of which he had been Keeper.

(26) He died Nov. 16, 1696.

(27) Aubrey's Antiquities of Surrey, Vol. V. p. 342 to 347.

(28) He had been a member in ſeveral parliaments for Sandwich in Kent.

(29) See the inſcription over the gateway.

* See a deſcription of it, in a poem intituled *Oxford*, by Mr Tickell, in 1707, with a dedication to Lord Lonſdale.

† The Biſhop married the widow of Sir Richard Fletcher of Hutton, great grandfather to the wife of Dr Joſeph Smith. See a further account of this prelate in Wilkis's Cathedrals, under Carliſle.

‡ Whom Dr Halton attended as chaplain in his embaſſy with Sir Leoline Jenkins, to Cologne, in 1673.

reflecting on others. He was obliging, humble, and ſincere, ever friendly and generous in his temper, and more ready to ſerve others than himſelf; in which reſpect he had by his intereſt an opportunity of doing many kind and generous offices. He was a kind and loving huſband, a tender and indulgent father, and a good maſter, taking care of the ſpiritual, as well as temporal concerns of all that belonged to him. His liberality to the poor was extenſive, and diſtributed without oſtentation, and beſides the many publick charities to which he was a conſtant ſubſcriber (*u*), he was a truſtee to others. About four years before his death he was greatly afflicted with the ſtrangury, which he bore with true Chriſtian fortitude and reſignation; but this obliging him to uſe frequent bleeding and evacuations, the decays of nature came thereby faſt upon him, till at laſt by a numbneſs of his limbs, and a total loſs almoſt of his ſight, he found death approaching, and took to his bed in the college on the Founder's day (*w*), Auguſt the fifteenth. He lived a dying life in this languiſhing condition for upwards of three months; during which interval he employed the time in divine contemplations, making frequent ejaculations and repetitions out of the Pſalms. On the day of his departure, being quite emaciated and worn out, he took a ſolemn leave of his family, and after recommending himſelf to the Almighty in fervent prayer, he cried out in the words of the burial ſervice, *O death, where is thy ſting!* &c. and expired. Thus died this venerable good man on Tueſday November 23, 1756, aged eighty-ſix years. His remains were depoſited on the 29th, according to his own appointment, in the vault under the altar of the new chapel at the college; all the members thereof, as well as ſome of the heads of other colleges, attending him to the grave. An elegant Latin ſpeech was ſpoken on the occaſion, by Mr Thomas Hodgſon, ſome time a Fellow of the college, and a handſome copy of verſes to his memory was afterwards inſerted in the London Magazine in 1757, by Mr John Hodgſon, of the ſame college, whoſe poetical genius has on ſeveral occaſions been diſplayed to his honour [*T*]. We have two ſermons publiſhed by our author (*x*). One on the death of Queen Anne, intitled, *The duty of the living to the memory of the dead.* The other preached before the Sons of the Clergy, printed under the title of the faithful ſtewardſhip. He alſo publiſhed in 1754, 8vo. *A clear and comprehenſive View of the Being and Attributes of God, formed not only upon the Divine Authority of the Holy Scriptures, but the ſolid Reaſonings and Teſtimonies of the beſt Authors, both Heathen and Chriſtian, which have writ upon that ſubject* [*U*]. The author's principal deſign of committing

(*u*) Viz. to the ſociety for the propagation of the Goſpel, that for promoting Chriſtian knowledge, St George's hoſpital, London, the Weſtminſter infirmary, the ſmall-pox hoſpital, and likewiſe to the Proteſtant ſchools in Ireland, as well as to thoſe at Oxford and at Kidlington, where he not only ſubſcribed handſomely himſelf, but applied for an annual ſubſcription in the neighbourhood, for ſettling and endowing a ſchool, according to the propoſals he drew up for the purpoſe, tho' it did not ſucceed to his expectations.

(*w*) This was always a memorable day with him, and particularly in 1740; which being the 400th year from the founding of the college, a grand jubilee was kept (the ſame being obſerved there once in 100 years) when the celebrated Mr Powell ſung there a Te Deum, accompanied with the choir from Magdalen college.

(*x*) See Letſome's Preacher's Aſſiſtant, and Hiſtorical Regiſter, 8vo. Both the ſermons went through two editions, and ſeveral copies of the latter were ſent by Sir George Wheeler to the Weſt Indies, and diſperſed there.

[*T*] *Mr Hodgſon's poetical genius has been diſplayed to his honour.*] They are wrote in a true poetical ſpirit, and therefore we ſhall oblige the reader with a tranſcript of them, as follows *:

I.
Not in oblivion's gloom expire,
The breaſts that glow with ſacred fire.
Ordain'd by heav'n their worth to ſave,
The hallow'd Muſe receives the hearſe,
And bids them live in endleſs verſe,
Triumphant o'er the withering grave.

II.
Thee, SMITH, ſhe mark'd, when, from its clay,
Emerg'd thy pure ethereal ray,
To mix with ſainted ſouls on high:
And, while Philippa's ſons the tear
Of gratitude pour'd o'er thy bier,
Entun'd thy heart-felt elegy.

III.
Ah me, ſhe cry'd! the good and wiſe,
In Death's cold arms extended lies;
See Virtue mourn the afflicting blow!
His was the courtly grace and eaſe,
That taught her harſher voice to pleaſe,
And ſooth'd the roughneſs of her brow.

IV.
Say ye, who all attention hung
O'er the ſweet accents of his tongue,
Whene'er he pour'd th'inſtructive lore,
How, taught in holy hope to riſe,
Ye burn'd impatient for the ſkies,
Allur'd by fading earth no more.

V.
Nor did perſuaſive ſpeech alone
Fix on his lips her ſacred throne;
More ſtrong his fair example taught.
The laws he preach'd his ſteps purſu'd,
While every eye with wonder view'd,
And emulative ardour caught.

VI.
Oft' has the drooping head of care,
Rais'd by his hand from fell deſpair,
View'd days of brighter tenour flow.
Oft' has his judgment's piercing rays
Unravell'd doubt's perplexing maze,
And giv'n the heart new peace to know.

VII.
Smit with the charms of varied good,
Each virtuous breaſt his friendſhip woo'd.
Oh WILLIAMSON ‖! thy fav'rite boaſt;
Ev'n the fair pride of ſovereign power †,
Call'd him to ſhare the ſocial hour,
And pomp in grateful converſe loſt.

VIII.
But chief for long try'd wiſdom known,
Fair learning mark'd him for her own,
Exulting in his generous ſway:
Kind gentle warmth his influence ſhed,
Each ſcience rais'd its laurell'd head,
Each latent genius ſprung to day.

IX.
Now, whilſt he ſoars to purer light,
The Muſe, he nurs'd, purſues his flight,
Far as the confines of the ſkies:
There harps angelic take the ſtrain,
And hail him to th' etherial plain,
Whilſt his hands reach th'immortal prize.

* See alſo Dr Smith's character in a book of poems, &c. publiſhed in 8vo. p. 250. by the ingenious Mr Thompſon aforementioned, ſon to the ſaid Mr Francis Thompſon, who publiſhed the State of the Caſe relating to the election of a Provoſt of Queen's-college.

‖ Sir Joſeph Williamſon.

† Queen Caroline, to whom he was Chaplain.

[*U*] *A clear and comprehenſive View, &c.*] The greateſt part of the impreſſion being ſold off very ſoon, and the remainder ſent to the Britiſh plantations and factories abroad, he afterwards made conſiderable additions to it (for he ſtill preſerved the ſolidity and quickneſs of his judgment ſurprizingly) and publiſhed a ſecond edition with his name to it (30), and a dedication to the Prince of Wales, now King George the Third, and Prince Edward, now Duke of York. Our author was very aſſiduous to the laſt in employing his

(30) The firſt edition came out anonymous.

ting this compendious ſummary of Chriſtian morality to the preſs (for which he was ſollicited by ſome of his friends) was to inſtil the fundamental principles of religion into the minds of our growing youth, and guard them as far as poſſible againſt the prevalent

time to ſome general good, and it is to be wiſhed that he had begun earlier in life, to give us other ſpecimens, as well as this, of his valuable compoſitions, of which he left a conſiderable number in manuſcript. However, we have ſome ground to hope that ſome of them will be publiſhed by his friends, though, as he had not ſuch a deſign, they muſt needs appear to a diſadvantage.

We muſt not conclude this memoir, without mentioning the application that was made to Dr Smith, after the death of Biſhop Beveridge in 1707, to look over his Lordſhip's manuſcripts, and chiefly thoſe on the XXXIX Articles, and his Private Thoughts on Religion, which he reviſed and publiſhed (31); but the laſt being very imperfect, he was obliged to make large additions, and he took a great deal of pains to finiſh it, according to the mind and ſentiments of the learned and pious author, of whom he gave an excellent character in the preface (32); and the work has gone through ſeveral editions.

(31) See Carter's Hiſtory of Cambridge, for Biſhop Beveridge, &c.

(32) It has been already cited more than once under that prelate's article, in this Work.

To this muſt alſo be added, that, in 1742, Sir Thomas Hanmer, Bart. gave the univerſity of Oxford the benefit of the impreſſion of his manuſcript of Shakeſpeare, *occaſioned by an intimation given him by Dr Smith, that ſuch a preſent would be acceptable to them*; and the affair was afterwards conducted by him and Dr Shippen, Principal of Brazen-noſe College, for they were both particularly conſulted in the publication of this beautiful edition of Shakeſpeare, as appears by the correſpondence Sir Thomas had with Dr Smith on that occaſion. The edition was printed at Oxford in 4to. 1744, on the fineſt royal paper, to which is prefixed a good cut to every play, done (by Gravelot) at the expence of Sir Thomas. This worthy gentleman, who died at his ſeat in Suffolk in May 1746‡, had been Knight of the Shire for that county, as alſo for Flintſhire, and ſome time Member for Thetford. He was unanimouſly choſen Speaker of the Houſe of Commons in the 12th of Queen Anne.

‡ His corps was conveyed to his ſeat at Hanmer, and interred in the chancel built by himſelf in that church, where there is a handſome monument of white marble with an inſcription erected to his memory. Gent. Mag. for Nov. 1762.

In a letter to Dr Smith, dated March 18, 1741-2, he writes as follows:

'Dear Sir,

I have received the favour of your letter, by which you deſire me to open a little the plan I would propoſe for a new impreſſion of Shakeſpeare, upon which ſubject, if I ſpeak unſkilfully or improperly, I may well be forgiven, it being ſo new to me.

My aim in general is to promote a correct and a beautiful edition of his dramatic works, more worthy of the author than any of thoſe which have hitherto been beſtowed upon him. It muſt be in ſix volumes in quarto, in as large a letter at leaſt as that publiſhed by Mr Pope, but upon much better paper, for it ought to be the fineſt royal, as good as the large paper of Dr Middleton's late Life of Cicero. I propoſe to have a good cut prefixed to every play, done by the very beſt deſigner and engraver; which copper-plates are now under hand, and in pretty great forwardneſs: and theſe I deſign ſhall be at my expence. I will give them freely to the publick, that the book may be brought within the compaſs of a reaſonable price, which I would not have exceed four pounds at the moſt: if it can be afforded cheaper, I ſhall be glad (33), nor do I deſire more copies for myſelf than ten or twelve to give to my particular friends.

(33) The ſubſcription price was three guineas, but the book now ſells for eight or ten, being grown very ſcarce.

[The principal point of all is to employ ſome gentlemen of great care and exactneſs to be correctors of the preſs, for as it hath coſt the pains of many years to rectify the miſtakes of former impreſſions; it would be very unhappy to have the ſenſe perverted and obſcured by any new blunders to be committed in this.

N. B. The parts included in hooks were omitted in the former printed copy.

You will wiſh perhaps that I ſhould ſay a word or two upon the time of proceeding in this affair. I find the artiſts I have to deal with in preparing the copper-plates the moſt dilatory men in the world, and I would fain have that trouble off my hands before I enter into any other part of it. Probably the finiſhing of theſe will take this whole ſummer; and it will be neceſſary for me alſo to take a journey into Wales §, ſo that the beginning of next winter will be as ſoon as the preſs can be ſet at work.] However, I ſhould be glad to be favoured with an anſwer, that I may know how it reliſhes, and whether any objections are made. I ſhould be glad to have it in my power to oblige the univerſity, to which I had the honour to belong, and for which I have always retained the greateſt reſpect. I am,

§ The buſineſs of this journey was probably to treat for the timber on his eſtate at Barton. See a letter of Mr Hervey to him. London 1753. 8vo. 3d edition.

SIR,

Your moſt humble and obedient ſervant,

Tho. Hanmer.

[You may pleaſe at all times to direct to me at this place; for though I ſhould be any where elſe, my porter will ſafely ſend your letters to me.']

In another letter, dated May 19, 1740, Sir Thomas expreſſes himſelf in theſe terms:

'Dear Sir,

I ought to acknowledge the favour of your letter, though, as it found me here under the affliction of my nephew's death, I have had no opportunity ſince of knowing from you or Dr Shippen, what further information or ſatisfaction is deſired from me. This in general may be depended on, that ſince the univerſity is pleaſed to accept ſo ſmall a preſent from me, they ſhall make what uſe of it they pleaſe; I will preſcribe in nothing to them. The edition muſt be in quarto, becauſe the plates are prepared for a volume of that ſize; but whether a ſmall number only ſhall be upon the beſt royal paper, and the reſt upon leſs, ſhall be left with them to determine. I wiſh only the purchaſe may not be too dear: nor would it be the intereſt of the univerſity to have it ſo, becauſe it would be an obſtruction to the ſale of the book. If you have any further commands for me upon this ſubject, or any other, pleaſe to direct to me at Hanmer, near Whitchurch in Shropſhire, for thither I am removing tomorrow. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble and moſt obedient ſervant,

Tho. Hanmer.'

Dr Smith's anſwer to this, taking notice of the rumour about an edition intended by Mr (now Dr) Warburton (Biſhop of Gloceſter), produced the following:

Milden-hall near Newmarket, Suffolk,
October 28, 1742.

'Dear Sir,

I have much doubted with myſelf whether it were proper for me to return an anſwer to the favour of your letter, till after hearing again from you or Dr Shippen. There ſeem to ariſe ſome difficulties with reſpect to the deſign of printing a new edition of Shakeſpeare, and I beg it may be laid aſide, if you are not fully ſatisfied that ſome advantage may ariſe from it to the univerſity; for I have no end in view to myſelf to make me deſire it. I am ſatisfied there is no edition coming or likely to come from Warburton, but it is a report raiſed to ſerve ſome little purpoſe or other, of which I ſee there are many on foot. I have reaſon to know that gentleman is very angry with me, for a cauſe of which I think I have no reaſon to be aſhamed, or he to be proud. My acquaintance with him began upon an application from himſelf, and at his requeſt the preſent Bp of Saliſbury * introduced him to me (34) for this purpoſe only, as was then declared, that as he had many obſervations upon Shakeſpeare then lying by him, over and above thoſe printed in Theobald's book, he much deſired to communicate them to me, that I might judge whether any of them were worthy to be added to thoſe emendations, which he underſtood I had long been making upon that author. I received his offer with all the civility I could: upon which a long correſpondence began by letters, in which he explained his ſenſe upon many paſſages, which ſometimes I thought juſt, but moſtly wild and out of the way. Afterwards he made a journey

* Dr Sherlock.

(34) In the preface to Mr Warburton's edition of Shakeſpeare, he ſays, Sir Thomas was recommended [or introduced] to him. See Sir H. Spelman's article, at the end of Remark [O], p. 3780.

prevalent attacks of infidelity and free-thinking. The ſubject itſelf is common by being ſo frequently treated on, but our author's method of handling it with regard to the arrangement of the ſeveral arguments and ſolutions, which are enlarged upon under each head, and his tender and affectionate manner of applying them to excite a ſuitable practice, are in a great meaſure new, and different from any other treatiſes that have yet appeared of the like ſort. *Difficile eſt proprie communia dicere.* HOR.

Dr Smith was ſucceeded in the Provoſtſhip of Queen's College by Dr Joſeph Browne, Canon-Reſidentiary of the church and Chancellor of the dioceſe of Hereford; and in his Prebend of Stoke-Newington, in the church of St Paul, London, by Dr Nicholls, Maſter of the Temple, and now alſo Rector of St James's, Weſtminſter.

journey hither (35) on purpoſe to ſee my books; he ſtaid about a week with me, and had the inſpection of them: and all this while I had no ſuſpicion of any other deſign, in all the pains he took, but to perfect a correct text in Shakeſpeare, of which he ſeemed very fond. But not long after, the views of intereſt began to ſhew themſelves, ſeveral hints were dropt of the advantage he might receive from publiſhing the work thus corrected; but as I had no thoughts at all of making it public, ſo I was more averſe to yield to it in ſuch a manner as was likely to produce a paltry edition, by making it the means only of getting a greater ſum of money by it (36). Upon this he flew into a great rage, and there is an end of the ſtory; with which I have thought it beſt to make you acquainted, that as you mention the working of his friends, you may judge the better of what you ſee and hear from them, and may make what uſe you pleaſe of the truth of facts, which I have now laid before you.

As to my own particular, I have no aim to purſue in this affair: I propoſe neither honour, reward, or thanks, and ſhould be very well pleaſed to have the books continue upon their ſhelf, in my own private cloſet. If it is thought they may be of uſe or pleaſure to the public, I am willing to part with them out of my hands, and to add, for the honour of Shakeſpeare, ſome decorations and embelliſhments at my own expence. It will be an unexpected pleaſure to me, if they can be made in any degree profitable to the univerſity, to which I ſhall always retain a gratitude, a regard, and reverence; but that I may end as I began, I beg the favour of you, if upon more mature conſideration among yourſelves, you ſee reaſon to diſcourage you from proceeding in this affair, that you will give it over, and not look upon yourſelves to be the more obliged to proſecute it from any ſteps already taken with,

SIR,

Your moſt humble,

and obedient ſervant,

Tho. Hanmer.'

P

(35) Certainly by invitation, which is plainly implied, and was needleſs to be expreſsly mentioned.

(36) This ſhews that he had no doubt of his right to publiſh a handſome edition of his copy ſo perfected, which right he afterwards expreſly aſſerted againſt Mr Warburton's pretences to the contrary, mentioned in his preface before cited.

SOMERS [JOHN Lord], an illuſtrious ſtateſman, of conſummate abilities and irreproachable integrity, was deſcended of reputable parents in the city of Worceſter [*A*], where he was born in the year 1652; and being put to the college ſchool there (*a*), was ſoon taken notice of for the quickneſs and ſolidity of his parts, and had the character of being the brighteſt boy in it; when he was removed to Oxford (*b*), and admitted a gentleman-commoner of Trinity-college (*c*). In the univerſity, the ſame good ſenſe grew into a judicious and elegant taſte of claſſical learning, and he would certainly have become equally the delight and boaſt of that eminent ſeat of the Muſes, had he ſtaid longer in it (*d*); but he left it without taking any degree *. His father having always intended to breed him to his own profeſſion, the Law, had entered him a Clerk to Sir Francis Winnington [*B*] for ſome time; after the expiration of which he was removed to the Middle Temple (*e*). Here two different talents were obſerved to concur in his genius, which are almoſt certain indications of the poſſeſſor's becoming a great man: to an exquiſite taſte of polite literature, was joined a turn to buſineſs in the practice of the Law. This implied ſolidity of judgment, and prompted an induſtrious application; whilſt the other furniſhed delicacy of ſentiment, and an elegant diction. Accordingly we find an unwearied diligence following Mr Somers through all the ſtages of his life, which gave him ſuch a thorough inſight into the laws of the land, that he paſſed for one of the greateſt maſters of his profeſſion, at his firſt appearance in it [*C*]: At the ſame time, he found leiſure to read and digeſt the fineſt authors both of the learned and modern languages, and was engaged with ſeveral of the politeſt writers of the age, in the Engliſh tranſlation of Plutarch's Lives in proſe, and Ovid's Epiſtles in verſe; in the firſt, he performed the *Life of Alcibiades*, and in the other *Dido's Epiſtle to Æneas*, and that of *Ariadne to Theſeus* (*f*). Neither in his profeſſion could ſuch accompliſhments be confined wholly to the lucrative part of it. On the contrary, he was not ſatisfied with occaſionally looking into the hiſtory and original of ſuch particular laws and cuſtoms as his practice led him to, he made the knowledge of the conſtitution in general a diſtinct branch of his ſtudies; ſo that he became a maſter

(a) Memoirs of the Life of John Lord Somers, &c. p. 10. edit. 1716. The writer of his Life, in the General Dictionary, tells us, he was educated at a private ſchool in Staffordſhire, but gives no authority for it.

(b) Ibid. p. 10.

(c) Ath. Oxon. Vol. II. col. 960.

(d) Life, as before.

* Ath. Oxon. as before.

(e) Life, p. 10.

(f) They were both printed by Mr Tonſon, who had the honour to be intimately acquainted with him while he was a young barriſter. Id. p. 11.

[*A*] *Deſcended of reputable parents*, &c.] His father, Mr John Somers, was an Attorney-at-Law, poſſeſſed of a good eſtate, which his Lordſhip inherited; and his mother, Mr Catherine Ceaverne, was a gentlewoman of a good family in Shropſhire. His grandfather was alſo a citizen of Worceſter of good ſubſtance (1).

(1) Life of Lord Somers, &c. p. 9, 10. edition 1716. 8vo.

[*B*] *He was Clerk to Sir Francis Winnington.*] This eminent Lawyer, we are told, from being a Servitor in Trinity-college, had raiſed a great eſtate by the Law, though his talent conſiſted rather in ſpeaking fluently than eloquently, knowing how to wrangle better than to argue (2). He was Solicitor-General to King Charles the Second, in which poſt he was ſucceeded by Heneage Finch, ſecond ſon to Chancellor Finch, and younger brother to Daniel Earl of Nottingham (3).

(2) Id. p. 10.

(3) Ath. Oxon. Vol. II. col. 720. and 1055.

[*C*] *One of the greateſt maſters of his profeſſion at the time of his firſt appearance in it.*] Mr Addiſon obſerves, that though he had made a regular progreſs through the ſeveral honours of the Long Robe, he was always looked upon as one who deſerved a ſuperior ſtation to that he was poſſeſſed of, till he arrived at the higheſt dignity to which theſe ſtudies could advance him (4).

(4) Freeholder, No. 39.

[*D*] *He*

p. 18.
Oxon.
l. 960.
as be-

xon,

. Oxon.
col. 720.
.

cholder,

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Extraordinary Means that were uſed to Suppreſs

Sir *Thomas Hanmer's* LETTER, &c.

THE detriment done to the BIOGRAPHIA BRITANNICA by the caſtration of Sir Thomas Hanmer's letter, diſcovering the firſt riſe and occaſion of the quarrel betwixt Him and Mr Warburton, is univerſally acknowledged by all who have ſeen it; and ſeveral complaints having been made to me of the Proprietors of that work, for ſubmitting to ſuch an injury, in which imputation I found myſelf involved; I have thought it neceſſary, in my own vindication, as well as in juſtice to the reſt of the proprietors, to lay before the public a full and true account of the matter.

ABOUT New-year's-day 1761, the copies of three original letters from Sir Tho. Hanmer to Dr Joſeph Smith, Provoſt of Queen's College in Oxford, were ſent to me, to be inſerted under that Provoſt's article in the Biography. Being ſenſible of the advantage accruing in general to the work by original letters of good import, not before printed, and of the recommendation theſe would be to that memoir in particular (*a*), I haſtened with them to the preſs, where I knew the laſt ſheet of that article had been ſome days in hand. I found indeed the whole entirely compoſed, together with a part of the ſubſequent article, ſo that the Printer yielded, not without ſome reluctance, to inſert them at the end of it. In a poſt or two after, the gentleman who communicated them informed me, that having, ſince he ſent them to me, ſhewed the third in particular, concerning Mr Warburton's quarrel, to ſome friends, they were of opinion that he would be greatly offended with it. "I confeſs," ſays the gentleman, "that his Lordſhip's temper is ſufficiently known; yet "being poſſeſſed of the originals, I am under no apprehenſion from any conſequences of "his diſpleaſure." Concluding, however, as he valued above all things that quiet which his fortune enabled him to enjoy, he choſe not to incur any hazard of being engaged in a broil, and therefore wiſhed the ſuppoſed offenſive letter might be withdrawn. But upon my anſwer that it was too late, and that I thought the Biſhop would not care to reſent it ſo much as was imagined, ſince his thoughts were now better employed upon ſubjects more ſuitable to his preſent dignity in the Church (*b*), the gentleman appeared to be ſatisfied, and I heard nothing further from him about it.

(*a*) Dr Smith was thought ſcarcely equal to the plan of the Biography.
(*b*) The publication of his treatiſe *On the Euchariſt* was then advertiſed in the news papers.

AMIDST a multitude of reflections that aroſe from ſo unexpected an incident, I reſolved at length upon a method, which was apparently the moſt agreeable to my friend's mind, and was certainly moſt reſpectful to the Biſhop, whoſe reputation in the learned world was not unknown to me, though an utter ſtranger to his perſon. I drew out a tranſcript of Sir Thomas's letter, and carried it to his Lordſhip under a cover, in which I aſſured him, that it ſhould not have paſſed through my hands to the preſs, had I obſerved any thing in it derogatory to his real merit, which I revered. Calling the next day for an anſwer, I was received in a civil manner; and though his Lordſhip broke out into a vehement ſpirit of indignation againſt the *impertinence*, as he ſtiled it, of my friend, yet as to myſelf he was ſo far from taking any thing amiſs, that he acknowledged the obligation of favouring him with a ſight of the letter before it was made public. And upon my aſſuring him, that if he thought himſelf injured by any miſtake or miſrepreſentation in it, ſo far as to make it proper for him to take notice of it in his own vindication, I would take care to inſert his anſwer in a ſubſequent part of the ſame volume, and refer to it in the general Index to the whole work; which, as the caſe ſtood, was all, I conceived, that could be done. He cloſed with this propoſal, and in a few days his anſwer was put, according to my direction, into the hands of Mr Millar in the Strand.

BUT that Bookſeller, inſtead of giving it to me, delivered it to a brother of the trade, Mr Browne, who being a member of the committee for the Biography, preſently ordered a meeting of them, to which I was alſo ſummoned. There it was that I firſt ſaw the Biſhop's anſwer. Thoſe gentlemen had for a long time entruſted me with the care of my own copy, without any examination, before it was put to the preſs; ſo that this was the firſt notice they had alſo of Sir Thomas's letter, which however they now agreed, upon peruſing it, was penned in a very handſome genteel addreſs as to the manner, and with reſpect to the matter was a valuable acquiſition to their work; blaming me at the ſame time for my needleſs compliment in diſcovering it to the Biſhop, who might, as well as the reſt of the world, have been left to be ſurprized with the ſecret, when the volume ſhould come out; and that it was as needleſs, as my compliment, to tell me what a recommendation the ſurprize of ſuch a new diſcovery was to any work. But in deliberating upon the Biſhop's anſwer, they all appeared to diſlike it; and as to myſelf, I could not forbear obſerving, that the futility of the matter, and the intemperance of the ſtile, were plain indications to me, that his Lordſhip was not able to give any good or ſufficient anſwer, and in that ſtrait had run into a mere cavil; to which the committee alſo apparently inclining, broke up, in the mind to take no notice of it in the Biography. Having the anſwer in my hand, I began to fold it up for carrying away in my pocket, when Mr Browne to my great ſurprize haſtily interpoſing, made a peremptory demand of it; and tho' he gave no reaſon for his demand, and did not deny that it was intended for me by the Biſhop (*c*), yet obſerving the reſt of the committee to favour his demand by their ſilence, I ſubmitted, on the conſideration that I was then nothing more than a Writer in their pay; and contented myſelf with taking a minute of it for my own ſatisfaction, while it was freſh in my memory, at my return home.

THERE calling to mind that the committee in peruſing my letter to the Biſhop, which was delivered to them by the ſame hand with his Lordſhip's, had differed unanimouſly from me in the opinion that Sir Thomas's letter contained nothing derogatory to his Lordſhip's real merit, I began to ſuſpect that ſomething more had been written upon the ſubject than had come to my knowledge, and ſetting about the inquiry, I ſoon met with matter abundantly enough to open my eyes, in the preface to Mr Warburton's edition of Shakeſpeare's plays, which, becauſe it contains all, upon the matter, that he thought fit to publiſh about his quarrel with Sir Thomas Hanmer, it will be neceſſary, in juſtice to both, to draw it out here, long as it is, in its full proportion.

AFTER giving an account of Mr Pope's edition, which cloſes with theſe words, "Thus "far Mr Pope," he goes on thus. "And although much more was to be done before "Shakeſpeare could be reſtored to himſelf (ſuch as the amending the corrupt text where "the printed books afford no aſſiſtance; explaining his licentious phraſeology and obſcure "alluſions; and illuſtrating the beauties of his poetry) yet with great modeſty and prudence "the illuſtrious Editor left theſe to the *Critic by profeſſion*.— But nothing will give the

(*c*) From the peremptorineſs of this demand, and what followed not long after, I have been ſometimes apt to think ſince, that Mr Millar, in delivering the Biſhop's anſwer to his brother bookſeller, had hinted to him, in confidence, ſomewhat of his Lordſhip's mind to have Sir Thomas's letter cancelled; which however, whether true or no, I had not the leaſt ſuſpicion of at this time.

"common

" common reader a better idea of the value of Mr Pope's edition, than the two attempts " which have been ſince made by Mr *Theobald* and Sir *Tho. Hanmer* in oppoſition to it: " who although they concerned themſelves only in the firſt of theſe three parts of criticiſm, " the reſtoring of the text (without any conception of the ſecond, or even venturing to touch " upon the third) yet ſucceeded ſo very ill in it, that they left their author in a worſe condi- " tion than they found him. But as it was my ill fortune to have ſome accidental connexions " with theſe gentlemen, it will be incumbent upon me to be a little more particular con- " cerning them.

" THE one was recommended to me as a poor man; the other as a poor critic: and to " each of them at different times I communicated a great number of obſervations, which " they managed as they ſaw fit to the relief of their ſeveral diſtreſſes. As to Mr Theo- " bald, who wanted money, I allowed him to print thoſe I gave him for his own advan- " tage; and he allowed himſelf in the liberty of taking one part for his own, and ſequeſ- " tering another for the benefit, as I ſuppoſed, of ſome future edition. But as the Oxford " Editor, who *wanted* nothing but what he might very well be without, *the reputation* " *of a critic, I could not ſo eaſily forgive him for trafficking with my papers without my* " *knowledge; and when that project failed, for employing a number of my conjectures* " *in his edition, againſt my expreſs deſire not to have that honour done unto me.*" After this, taking Mr Theobald into his cognizance again, whom he expoſes for want of genius, and repreſents as remarkable only for induſtry, and tranſcribing what others had done, he returns to Sir Tho. Hanmer. " How the Oxford Editor," ſays he, " came to think him- " ſelf qualified for this office, to which his whole courſe of life had been ſo remote, is " ſtill more difficult to conceive; for whatever parts he might have, either of genius or " eruditon, he was abſolutely ignorant of the art of criticiſm, as well as of the poetry of " that time, and the language of the author; and ſo far from a thought of examining the " firſt editions, that he even neglected to compare Mr Pope's, from which he printed his " own, with Mr Theobald's, whereby he loſt the advantage of many fine lines, which the " other had recovered from the old quartos. Where he truſts to his own ſagacity in what " affects the ſenſe, his conjectures are generally abſurd and extravagant, and violating every " rule of criticiſm. Though in this rage of correcting, he was not abſolutely deſtitute of " all art: For having a number of my conjectures before him, he took as many of them " as he ſaw fit to work upon, and by changing them to ſomething he thought ſynonymous " or ſimilar, he made them his own, and ſo became a critic at a cheap expence: but how well " he hath ſucceeded in this, as likewiſe in the conjectures, which are properly his own, will " be ſeen in the courſe of my remarks. Though, as he has declined to give the reaſons for " his interpolations, he has not given me ſo fair a *hold* of him, as Mr Theobald has done, " who was leſs cautious. But his principal object was to reform his author's numbers. " And this, which he hath done on every occaſion by the inſertion of omiſſions, and by a " ſet of harmleſs unconcerning expletives, makes up the groſs body of his innocent correc- " tions. And ſo in ſpite of that extreme negligence in numbers, which diſtinguiſhes the " firſt dramatic writers, he hath tricked up the old Bard, from head to foot, in all the finical " exactneſs of modern meaſures and numbers.

" FOR the reſt, all the corrections which theſe two Editors have made on any reaſonable " foundation, are here admitted into the text, and carefully aſſigned to their reſpective Au- " thors; a piece of juſtice which the Oxford Editor never did, and which the other was not " always ſcrupulous in obſerving to me. To conclude with them in a word. They ſepa- " rately poſſeſſed thoſe two qualities, which more than any other have contributed to bring " the art of criticiſm into diſrepute, dulneſs of apprehenſion, and extravagance of conjec- " ture." But notwithſtanding this profeſſed concluſion, he has not yet done with the odious Baronet. In anſwer to a ſuppoſed objection againſt himſelf of a Divine's applying his time and talents upon profane criticiſm, having cited the precedent of Dr. Kuſter; " But I fly, " continues he, to a higher example, much nearer home, and ſtill more in point, the famous " Univerſity of Oxford. This illuſtrious Body, which hath long ſo juſtly held, and with ſuch " equity diſpenſed, the honours of the learned world, thought good letters ſo much inter- " eſted in correct editions of the beſt Engliſh Writers, that they very lately, in their public " capacity, undertook one of thoſe very Authors by ſubſcription; and if the Editor hath not " diſcharged his taſk with ſuitable abilities for one ſo much honoured by them, this was not " their fault, but his, who thruſt himſelf into the employment."

HERE

HERE what firſt ſtruck me, was the admirable ſkill which the *Critic by profeſſion* had ſhewn, in keeping the firſt occaſion of his quarrel with Sir Thomas very carefully out of ſight: all the rules and canons of *his* art required this menage; it would not bear to be ſhewn ſo much as in profile. However I reſolved not to defer doing him a piece of juſtice as ſoon as poſſible, and having occaſionally mentioned him on another ſubject, in the article of Sir Henry Spelman *, then in hand, I added theſe words. "We gladly alſo take this firſt opportunity of doing another piece "of juſtice to this Biſhop, by declaring, that ſince the letter at the end of Dr Joſeph Smith's "article was printed off, where it is ſaid, that his Lordſhip (then Mr Warburton) was re-"commended [introduced] by the Bp of Saliſbury to Sir Tho. Hanmer, we have been ſhewn "a paſſage in his Lordſhip's preface to his edition of Shakeſpeare, where he aſſerts that Sir "Thomas was recommended to him as a poor critic; which if we had then known, ſhould "have been inſerted as a marginal note to the aforeſaid letter of Sir Thomas Hanmer. How-"ever, the difference between them may be eaſily adjuſted; we need only ſuppoſe (what "is highly probable) that the ceremonial was conducted by the Biſhop of Saliſbury with "ſuch a reſpectful addreſs to both, that each might well enough look upon the introduction "to be made to himſelf."

THIS remark was plainly inſerted, under a full perſuaſion that Sir Thomas's letter would not be diſturbed, but allowed to keep its place. Nor had I the leaſt reaſon at that time to ſuſpect the contrary. Some months paſſed before I heard the leaſt hint of ſuch a deſign's being in agitation, and that at the inſtance of the Biſhop. The news, I confeſs, alarmed me not a little; and to know what truth there was in it, I repaired to his Lordſhip's bookſeller, Mr Millar, as the likelieſt perſon I had any knowledge of, to reſolve me: and aſking him whether or no his Lordſhip had ſo far changed his mind as to make an application for the purpoſe? His anſwer was, that "he would not ſay ſo much; but this he "would aſſure me, that when the promiſe to cancel it was told to his Lordſhip, he expreſſed "a particular ſatisfaction." An anſwer made with ſuch a cautious reſerve, convinced me that his Lordſhip was indeed at the bottom of this deſign, and that it was his hand that guided and governed all the motions of the machines which were to appear openly upon the ſtage, while he ſtood behind the curtain. However, the impertinent preſumption of the requeſt, added to the reproachful conſciouſneſs of tamely ſubmitting to execute ſuch a notorious act of injuſtice upon their property, kept the committee from any actual compliance. The execution was deferred to the laſt moment.

As ſoon as the volume was finiſhed at the preſs, having a little leiſure, I went to Bath, for my health, in the beginning of July 1762; and leaving a commiſſion to purchaſe a ſmall part of Mr Browne's ſhare in the work, which was to be ſold after his death, by that purchaſe I returned home in September an actual proprietor; and ſhortly after meeting the new committee which had been lately appointed, I found them ſo far from conſenting to expunge the unjuſtly eſteemed offenſive letter of Sir Thomas, that a propoſal was made to reprint the whole ſheet with all its contents ſo much cloſer, as would make room for inſerting the Biſhop's anſwer. For this purpoſe application was made to Mr Tonſon, a proprietor, to whoſe hands that anſwer had been committed; and the caſe requiring a ſpeedy diſpatch, I waited myſelf upon that gentleman; but I found him under the greateſt confuſion imaginable from the committee's letter, which was, juſt before my coming, put into his hands. He declared with ſome reſentment, that after the aſſurances he had received to have Sir Thomas's letter expunged, he looked upon the Biſhop's anſwer to be ſuperſeded, and had taken no care to preſerve it. Acquainting the committee with this diſappointment, I told them of the forementioned minute I had taken of his Lordſhip's anſwer; upon which they directed me to draw out the principal part of it, which it was conceived their deſign would admit, and communicate it to the Biſhop, together with their propoſal, for his approbation and conſent. I ſent this by the penny-poſt in a letter directed to him at his houſe in Groſvenor-ſquare. But his Lordſhip not deigning to acknowledge to me the receipt of it either directly or indirectly, I begun to reflect upon ſome things which had paſſed when I ſaw Mr Tonſon.

THAT gentleman telling me the Biſhop was deſirous to have the whole affair dropt, and not be revived, after lying ſo many years dormant, I could not forbear obſerving, that ſuch a deſire implied a reſolution that his own cenſures of Sir Thomas, which were abroad in the world,

* At the end of Remark [O], Vol. VI. p. 378.

ſhould

ſhould ſtick upon his memory, and continue in the full poſſeſſion of their credit, unimpeached by any proofs, how authentic ſoever, that could be produced to wipe off the ſtain *(d)*: and this ſtain I found too had been ſtruck in a deeper dye than in the forementioned preface; for Mr Tonſon ſhewed me (what till then I had never ſeen) the edition of Sir Thomas's Shakeſpeare printed at London in 1745, 8vo. to which was prefixed the following remarkable advertiſement by the bookſellers. "This edition is exactly copied from that lately printed in quarto at "Oxford; but the Editor of that edition not having thought fit to point out the alterations "he has made from the former copies, we were adviſed to mark thoſe paſſages in the text "thus", and place the diſcarded readings at the bottom of the page, as alſo to point out "the emendations made by Mr Theobald, Mr Warburton, and Dr Thirlby, in the edition, "which are uſed by the Editor. The changes in the diſpoſition of the lines for the re-"gulation of the metre are too numerous to be taken particular notice of. As to the other "emendations and notes of Mr Warburton, which are for the moſt part marked likewiſe "in this edition, we are only commiſſioned to ſay thus much, That he deſires the public "would ſuſpend their opinion of his conjectures, till they ſee how they can be ſupported. "For he holds it as ridiculous to alter the text of an author without reaſon aſſigned, *as it* "*was diſhonourable to publiſh thoſe alterations without leave obtained.* While he uſes "this indulgence for himſelf, if the public will give it too to the honourable Editor, he will "not complain; as having no objection why his too ſhould not keep the place they have "uſurped, until they are ſhewn to be arbitrary, groundleſs, miſtaken, and violating not "only the ſenſe of the author, but all the rules and canons of true criticiſm. Not that the "violation of theſe rules ought to be more objected to the editor, than the violation of the "rules of poetry to his author, as both apparently wrote without any."

THE idea of *diſhonour* had a very reliſhing haut-goût upon our critic's palate; he knew he could not faſten upon a more tender part, and therefore reſolved not to let go his *hold*, without another exquiſitely delightful ſhake. After fetching a by-blow at the *Frater in malo*, Mr Theobald, pointed with a ſcornful air of forgiveneſs on account of his poverty; The unforgiven Miſcreant is brought again to the ſtake, and his crime proclaimed with freſh aggravations thus. "But I could not," ſays he, "ſo eaſily forgive the Oxford Editor "for trafficking with my papers without my knowledge, and when that project failed, for "employing a number of my Conjectures in his edition, againſt my expreſs deſire not to "have that honour done unto me."

THE charge of *trafficking with his papers*, put me in mind of what had paſſed at the Committee for the Biography, while his Lordſhip's anſwer lay before them, where, in favour of a remark in that anſwer, relating to Sir Thomas's diſintereſtedneſs, it was obſerved, that before Sir Thomas preſented his copy of Shakeſpeare to the univerſity of Oxford, he had offered to ſell it for a hundred pounds to Mr Tonſon, who declined the purchaſe. Mentioning this in converſation to that gentleman, he ſaid, the ſtory had ſome truth in it, but the fact was imperfectly related; for that the money was not aſked by Sir Thomas for his own uſe, but for the ſervice of a neceſſitous friend; and that he had not refuſed the offer on that account, but only becauſe Sir Thomas inſiſted upon a pompous expenſive edition in quarto. Now, with theſe circumſtances, which had been *unfairly omitted* before, was there any thing mean or unworthy of a gentleman, as is inſinuated by a *project of trafficking?* The bungler in it might indeed appear ridiculous to the author of this Preface, who juſt before the writing of it had given an egregious proof of his maſterly ſkill in the craft *(e)*.

(d) The firſt ſtep uſually taken by a tyrannical uſurper, is to ſecure his unrighteous poſſeſſion of the crown, by cutting off all the rightful claimants of it: In the like ſpirit, this ſovereign critic reſolved to ſecure that unrighteous poſſeſſion, which he had given to his foul aſperſions of Sir Thomas, by cutting off all the rightful means that might be employed to diſpoſſeſs them.

(e) Having by this ſkill compleated a moſt advantageous bargain for the purchaſe of his copy of Shakeſpeare, he repaid the purchaſers with the following memorable compliment in the preface, where, after expatiating on the preference of his edition above all others, he proceeds thus: "If from all theſe Shakeſpeare or good learning have received any advantage, "and the public any benefit or entertainment, the thanks are due to the proprietors, who have been at the expence of "procuring this edition: And I ſhould be unjuſt to ſeveral deſerving men of a reputable and uſeful profeſſion, if I "did not on this occaſion acknowledge the fair dealing I have always found among them, and profeſs my ſenſe of the "unjuſt prejudice which lies againſt them, whereby they have been hitherto unable to procure that ſecurity for their "property, which too the reſt of their fellow-citizens enjoy. A prejudice in part ariſing from the frequent piracies (as "they are called) committed by members of their own body. But ſuch kind of members no body is without; and it "would be hard if this ſhould be turned to the diſcredit of the honeſt part of the profeſſion, who ſuffer more from "ſuch injuries than any other men. It hath in part too ariſen from the clamours of profligate ſcribblers, very ready for a "piece of money to proſtitute their bad ſenſe for or againſt any cauſe profane or ſacred, or in any ſcandal public or private. "This meeting with little encouragement from men of account in the trade (*who even in this enlightened age are not the "very worſt judges or rewarders of merit*) apply themſelves to people of condition, and ſupport their importunity by falſe "complaints againſt the bookſellers."

BUT the *poor Critic*'s more unpardonable crime, was to be found baſely dealing with his maſter's goods without his knowledge. A heavy charge! Which therefore requires a proportionably ſtrong foundation to ſupport it, otherwiſe it muſt recoil upon the head of the accuſer. Here then the value of Sir Thomas's letter appears in its true importance, and diſcovers the abſolute neceſſity there was to have it ſuppreſſed at any rate. The whole tenor of that letter evinces that the writer had, at the time of writing it, not the leaſt doubt of his being poſſeſſed of a right to print his copy of Shakeſpeare, as improved with his own ſelect choice of Mr Warburton's emendations, whenever he ſhould take it into his thoughts to do it; and I appeal to his maſter, whether this right was not afterwards expreſly aſſerted, and properly ſupported againſt the pretences of that maſter, here *diſhonourably* alledged.

As to the reſt of this Preface, where great ſtore of choice flowers is ſtrown with a liberal hand upon Sir Thomas's criticiſms, I don't find that he ever thought fit to trifle away, in taking notice of them, any part of that time which he knew how to employ much better. They could indeed give little or no diſturbance to a gentleman, who expreſly diſclaimed all *pretence of aiming at any reputation by them in the character of a critic (f)*.

HOWEVER, his cauſe was ſufficiently, though undeſignedly, revenged by another gentleman, who entered the liſts againſt the *Maſter Critic* ſome time after, and who having foiled him in his own profeſſion, merited, by that ſhameful overthrow, the honour of a place upon the ſame bench with Sir Thomas in the *Dunciad (g)*. Notwithſtanding this coup de grace, a late writer, diſtinguiſhed alſo by the name Thomas, not having the fear of the ſovereign before his eyes, has dared, and (who can help it?) in the *Gentleman's* Magazine too for this very year 1763, even beyond the darings of his precurſor, at leaſt in one inſtance; which, becauſe the application has a particular aſpect to Sir Thomas Hanmer, deſerves to be tranſlated hither as into its proper place. It is entitled,

CRITICAL REMARKS on a Paſſage in *OTHELLO.*

OTHELLO, II. 8.

——Which thing to do,
If this poor Traſh of Venice, *whom I do trace*
For his quick hunting, ſtand the putting on,
I'll have our Michael Caſſio *on the hip,*
Abuſe him to the Moor, &c.

IAGO is here opening his deſigns againſt *Othello*, and his lieutenant *Michael Caſſio*. By *this poor Traſh of* Venice he means *Roderigo*, who was a *Venetian*, and whom he had been juſt talking with in the foregoing ſcene. *For his quick hunting* means the ſpeedy running down of *Caſſio*, whom, by means of *Roderigo*, if he could but keep him up to his metal, he intended, as he ſays, to ruin.

MR *Warburton* has two emendations on this paſſage, 'Traſh of *Venice*,' a trifling inſignificant fellow may, in ſome reſpects, very well be called *traſh*; but the metaphor is not preſerved; for what agreement is there betwixt *traſh* and *quick hunting*, and *ſtanding the putting on?* The alluſion to the chace *Shakeſpeare* ſeems to be fond of applying to *Roderigo*, who ſays of himſelf, towards the concluſion of this act, 'I follow her in the 'chace,

(f) See his third Letter in the caſtrated ſheet of Biog. Brit. now reprinted.

(g) In that poem, book iv. where the Goddeſs of Dulneſs is repreſented diſperſing her honours among a crowd of her ſuitors, occurs the following couplet,

Her children firſt of more diſtinguiſh'd ſort,
Who ſtudy Shakeſpeare at the Inns of Court.

To this laſt ver. 567. is ſubjoined a note, in theſe terms: "Ill would that Scholiaſt diſcharge his duty, who ſhould neglect "to honour thoſe whom Dulneſs has diſtinguiſhed, or ſuffer them to lie forgotten, when their own modeſty would have left "them nameleſs. Let us not therefore overlook the ſervices which have been done her cauſe by one Mr *Thomas Edwards*, "a gentleman (as he is pleaſed to call himſelf) of Lincoln's Inn, but in reality a gentleman only of the Dunciad; or, to "ſpeak him better in the plain language of our honeſt anceſtors, to ſuch *muſhrooms, a gentleman of the laſt edition*; who, "nobly eluding the ſollicitude of his careful father, very early retained himſelf in the cauſe of Dulneſs againſt Shake-"ſpeare, and with the wit and learning of his anceſtor *Thomas Thimble* in the Rehearſal, and with the air and politeneſs of "*Caliban* in the Tempeſt, hath now happily finiſhed the Dunce's progreſs in perſonal abuſe.

"Lamentable is the diligence of theſe *gentlemen of the Dunciad.* This *Fungoſo* and his friends, who are all gentle-"men, have clamoured much againſt us, for reflecting on his birth, in the words *A gentleman of the laſt edition*; which "we hereby declare concern not his birth, but his adoption only, and mean no more, than that he is become a gentleman "of the laſt edition of the Dunciad. Since gentlemen then are become ſo captious, we think it proper to declare, that "Mr *Thomas Thimble*, who is here ſaid to be Mr *Thomas Edwards*'s anceſtor, is only related to him by the Muſe's ſide.—— "SCRIBLERUS." Pope's Works, vol. IV. edit. 1757. 8vo.

Deplorable then ſurely is the caſe of this gentleman *Scriblerus*, who having given Mr Edwards a precedent for quitting his profeſſion of the Law, to which he was bred, found himſelf afterwards reduced to the hard neceſſity of accepting the office of *Recorder* to the Goddeſs of Dulneſs.

'*chace*, not like a *hound* that *hunts*, but one that fills 'up the *cry*.' I ſuppoſe, therefore, that the Poet wrote,

If this poor *brach* of *Venice*,

which is a low ſpecies of *hounds of the chace*, and a term generally uſed in contempt; and this completes and perfects the metaphorical alluſion, and makes it much more ſatirical. *Utilius*, in his notes on *Gracian*, ſays, '*Racha* Saxonibus canem ſignificabat, unde Scoti 'hodie *Rache* pro cane femina habent, quod Anglis eſt '*Brache*. Nos vero *(he ſpeaks of the Hollanders)* Brach 'non quemvis canem, ſed ſagacem vocamus.' So the *French*, *Braque*, *Eſpece de chien de chaſſe*. *Menage* etymol. [whom I do trace for his quick hunting] juſt the contrary. He did not *trace* him, he *put him on*, as he ſays immediately after. The old quarto leads to the true reading,

——————— whom I do *cruſh*
For his quick hunting,——

plainly corrupted from *cheriſh*; and ſo this emendator gives it in his edition,

Whom I cheriſh.

Now, Sir, as for the firſt of theſe emendations, it is doubtleſs very obvious, but I fear won't bear examination; for I abſolutely deny, that the *brach* was a *low ſpecies of hounds of the chace*, and a *term generally uſed in contempt*: And an inſtance is required of ſuch its uſe, for I am certain that the authors whom he cites ſay no ſuch thing. The paſſage of *Janus Ulitius*, whom he here erroneouſly calls *Utilius*, in his notes on *Gracian* (that is, on *Gratius*, for ſo the author of the *Latin* poem intitled *Cynegeticon* is called, and not *Gratianus*) may be ſeen above; and as to *Menage* in *Les origines de la langue Françoiſe*, v. *Brague*. Sir *Henry Spelman* in his Gloſſ. v. *Barmbraccus & Bracco*. *Lindenbrogius* in Gloſſ. v. *Bracco*. Sir *Wm Dugdale*'s Baron. I. p. 264. *Fr. Junii* etymol. in v. *Shakeſpeare Troilus & Creſſid.* II. 2. King *Lear* III. 9. *Maſſinger*'s Unnat. Combat IV. 2. *Webſter*'s White Devil, p. 407. *Broom*'s Jov. Crew. p. 348. All which are good men and true, and very impartial in this cauſe, and whom I have very carefully conſulted; theſe none of them drop the leaſt hint of the *Brach*'s being of a *contemptible* or *degenerate breed*. But I will give you the words of *Joh. Caius*, than whom no better judge can be required in this behalf, who in his book *De Canibus Britannicis* knows no difference between the *Brach* and the beſt hound, but that the *Brach* was the female. Theſe are his words, p. 496, edit. *Burmanni*. '*Quod autem ex his aliquas*, Brachas *noſtri*, 'Rachas Scoti *ſua lingua nominant*, *in Cauſa Sexus eſt*, '*non genus*. *Sic enim Canes femineas in venatico genere* '*vocare ſolent noſtri*;' and this agrees very well with what *Ulitius* delivers above, as likewiſe with *Junius*, and others, and in *Broom*'s Jov. Crew, p. 348. *Beggar-braches* are *Beggar-wenches*. Now, Sir, is it not a flat contradiction in terms to call a perſon *a poor Brach?* or to ſtile any thing of the male kind a *Brach?* Wherefore I am of opinion, that the old reading of *poor traſh* muſt ſtand, ſince Mr *Warburton* will allow that a trifling inſignificant fellow may well be called *traſh*; and, if ſo, it may, with equal propriety, be applied to a paltry or worthleſs hound. But I am the clearer in this, on account of the pun, which the author appears here to aim at,

If this poor *traſh* of *Venice*, whom I do trace, *&c.*

Now this pun, once conceived in the author's head, led him to proceed in the metaphor, and afterwards led him to carry on the ſpeech in words borrowed from hounds and the chace, it being one of the ſort itſelf; inſomuch that theſe metaphorical alluſions do not commence at the word *traſh*, but at the word *trace*; from which point the metaphor is ſufficiently followed and preſerved, as there are no leſs than three terms from the chace employed, *trace*, *quick hunting*, and *putting on*.

We then proceed to conſider this editor's ſecond emendation, by which all this is loſt, and the true foundation of theſe metaphorical terms, in my conception of things, totally removed and annihilated. He has altered the words *do trace*, or *do cruſh*, as it is corruptly printed in the old quarto, into *cheriſh*; *do cruſh* is evidently nonſenſe, and is a groſs corruption of ſomething; of *do trace*, probably, the ſcribe not underſtanding that term, and not of *cheriſh*; for though this may ſeem an eaſy corruption from *cruſh*, it could not well ariſe from *do cruſh*. In ſhort, it appears to me from Mr *Warburton*'s attempting an emendation here, and his having recourſe to the corrupt reading of the quarto, that he did not underſtand the meaning of the word *trace* in this place, any more than the printer or editor of the quarto did. It is a term of hunting or field-ſport; to *trace* ſometimes ſignifies to *follow*, as *Hen.* VIII. Act. iii. ſcene 2.

Now all joy trace the conjunction;

and a dog or a man *traces a hare*; but to *trace a dog*, in thoſe ſports, is to put a *trace*, or *pair of couples*, upon him, and ſuch a dog is ſaid to be *traced*. The ſenſe then, of

——————— whom I do trace
For his quick hunting———

is this, Whom I do aſſociate to me for the purpoſe of ruining *Caſſio* the ſooner. In the uſing of theſe traced dogs, they often took the trace into their hands, and ran along with the dog, eſpecially the blood-hound, which is very apropos to this ſubject; for Dr Caius, ſpeaking of theſe hounds purſuing thieves, as well as beaſts, ſays, " Iidem cum fures inſequuntur, non ea " donantur libertate, qua cum feras, niſi in magna ce- " leritate fugientium furum, ſed *loro retenti* herum du- " cunt qua velint ille celeritate, ſive pedes ſit, ſive " eques." *Caius*, p. 496. who likewiſe, at p. 497. ſpeaks of another ſort of dog, beſides the blood-hound, that was called *Lorarius*, *a loro quo ducitur*, in Engliſh the *Lyemmer*.

In fine, Sir, were we to part with this word *trace*, we ſhould loſe in a manner all the beauty of this paſſage, whether we read *traſh* or *brach* before; and if the former, which after what has been ſaid, methinks, we ought to do, we ſhould loſe even the very baſis and foundation of all the following metaphors; inſomuch that I am entirely for retaining it: *And I cannot but wiſh for a concluſion, that our editors would bring a little more learning and a little more knowledge with them, when they undertake the emending of our antient authors, and would not attempt writing upon ſubjects which they apparently do not, and muſt know they do not, underſtand.*

Sumite materiam veſtris, qui ſcribitis, æquam
Viribus; & verſate diu, quid ferre recuſent,
Quid valeant humeri.——

Certainly, Mr Urban, ſome of the miſtakes detected above are of a very groſs kind, and muſt bring an editor to ſhame.

Yours, &c.

T. ROW.

Words theſe laſt of the very ſame import with thoſe thrown in this ever-memorable preface againſt Sir homas Hanmer.

But whether Mr *Thomas Row* ſhall be thought worthy of the ſame honour with his two nameſake predeceſſors in ſome future edition of the Dunciad, muſt be left to the conſummate wiſdom and impartial juſtice of the *Recorder, who has long ſo juſtly held, and with ſo much equity diſpenſed, thoſe honours of the* un-*learned world.*

THE Reader will obſerve here, that theſe animadverſions are levelled only againſt Mr Warburton, the Critic and Author; which part of his character he has expreſsly given leave to be mumbled by ſuch *poor* ſcriblers as myſelf *(b)*, whenever it may be thought to ſerve our preſſing occaſions: upon this condition however, that his moral character be not impeached or violated; which is ſince become more ſacred by his preſent dignity in the church, and which ſhall be treated by me with all the reſpect and deference due to it. It is therefore in regard to his authorſhip only that his challenge is accepted, yet not in the rude words adopted by himſelf from Father Valerian, *mentiris impudentiſſime!*

THUS much was thought neceſſary to offer as a ſhrine to the *Manes* of a worthy Baronet, who had been cauſeleſly abuſed while living, and his aſhes profanely violated after his death. It is time now to return to that place in my narrative, which led me to it; where I left the Biſhop diſdaining to take any notice of the reſpectful application made to him for leave to inſert the ſubſtance of his own vindication againſt Sir Thomas Hanmer. But though I was deemed unworthy, as is there obſerved, of an anſwer, yet I had ſoon ſufficient reaſon to know that the new Committee had been tampered with ſo effectually, as to deſiſt from their attempt, and drop their deſign. At a meeting called not many days after, in order to fix the time for publiſhing the volume, I found the offenſive ſheet had been withdrawn, and a new one put into its place, printed ſo much wider as was neceſſary to fill the ſame ſpace, without Sir Thomas's letter.

THE tameneſs of ſubmitting at laſt to ſuch an unprovoked invaſion of our property, and that too by an Author who watched with a dragon's eye, and revenged with a dragon's teeth and claws the leaſt, even imaginary, treſpaſs upon his own, I confeſs, raiſed my indignation. I proteſted againſt it for this reaſon, among others, That the volume muſt thereby unavoidably appear maimed and imperfect, ſince the letter was expreſly mentioned and referred to in a ſubſequent article to that of Dr Joſeph Smith, before I had the leaſt apprehenſion of there being any deſign on foot to cancel it. The anſwer was, that they did not care to diſoblige the Biſhop of Glouceſter: But if I ſhould think proper to reprint the caſtrated ſheet at my own expence, which it was not in their power to hinder, they did not look upon themſelves under any obligation to interfere.

SENDING, not long after the publication, for a few copies of my own ſhare; the ſight of the new ſheet kindled a new reſentment. The cancelled letter was allowed to be a valuable acquiſition, and had been procured ſolely by me; the cancelling of it was conſequently, over and above the injury done to the work, a particular affront to myſelf. The ſmart of this conceived affront put me (as the devil would have it) upon flying to a forlorn hope, as a dernier reſort. I had been aſſured that the ſheet was not deſtroyed; I reſolved therefore to make another eſſay, deſperate as it was, for his Lordſhip's permiſſion to replace it. But here I found myſelf miſerably miſtaken. His Lordſhip received me in a very rough manner; and I had not finiſhed the whole occaſion of my viſit, when his Lordſhip cut me ſhort in a rage: *Whoever*, ſays he, *ſhall print that letter, if I can take any advantage againſt them, I will. Your Lordſhip*, anſwered I, *is in a paſſion:* and ſo we parted, in no very good humour on either ſide. So unexpected a menace ſunk deep into my mind. I ſaw in it both inſolence and ingratitude. I had, purely out of reſpect to his Lordſhip, communicated Sir Thomas's letter to him, which otherwiſe would have been publiſhed in print without his knowledge, and conſequently muſt have cut off all poſſibility of this menace. I concluded that to ſuffer myſelf to be intimidated by it, would betray an unmanly abjectneſs of ſpirit; and it was theſe reflections that firſt prompted the deſign of publiſhing the letter myſelf. In this diſpoſition, having now experienced his Lordſhip's temper, I put the letter in the hands of a Counſellor at Law, well ſkilled in his profeſſion, for his opinion, what advantage the Prelate had in his power to take againſt me in caſe I ſhould publiſh it; after keeping it ſeveral days under deliberation, he returned it with an anſwer to this effect, that the menace would certainly prove to be *Vox & præterea nihil*; for that the letter was far from being libellous in any ſenſe. However, being ſenſible of my own great de-

(b) In an advertiſement prefixed to the edition of Mr Pope's works, publiſhed after his death, are theſe words: 'Of all 'our groſs Bœotian phalanx, who have written ſcurrilouſly againſt me, I know not ſo much as one whom a writer of repu-'tation would not wiſh to have his enemy, or whom a man of honour would not be aſhamed to own for his friend. I am 'indeed but ſlightly converſant in their works, and know little of the particulars of their defamation. To my authorſhip 'they are welcome. But if any of them have been ſo abandoned to truth, as to attack my moral character in any inſtance 'whatſoever, to all and every one of theſe and their abettors I give the lie in form, and in the words of honeſt Father Vale-'rian, *Mentiris impudentiſſime!*'

merits,

merits, and how obnoxious I was on account of ſome former miſcarriages in my paſt life; to his Lordſhip's vengeful pen, if he ſhould again kindle into a rage, I reſolved to do all that lay in my power to diſarm him, by confeſſing my poverty and my guilt; in which view I addreſſed myſelf to him in the following letter.

" My Lord,

" Your Lordſhip is engaged in matters of ſo much greater importance than any thing " can be which relates to my particular concerns, that nothing but the uneaſineſs I feel at " the apprehenſions of lying under your diſpleaſure could have moved me to offer this " addreſs, in hopes of removing it.

" I need not mention what has paſſed between us *ore tenus*, and ſhall only aſſure you that " when I brought you about two years ago a copy of Sir Thomas Hanmer's letter, which " otherwiſe would have been publiſhed without your knowledge, any complaints you had " made public of him were utterly unknown to me. I was at that time a hired ſervant to " write for the *Biographia Britannica:* but after ſerving a ten years apprenticeſhip, as I " may ſay, thereto, I became a proprietor laſt ſummer by the purchaſe of a ſmall ſhare in it; " which was done with a deſign to make the beſt reſtitution I could for the great injuries done " to the Univerſity of Cambridge, and ſome colleges there, beſides other private perſons. The " ſtory is too black in itſelf, and too grievous for me to relate. My Lord of Briſtol, to whom " I am not unknown, and who was then a Fellow of one of the injured ſocieties, can in- " form you of the particulars; and I am not anxious to have any thing concealed. The " ſhame attending it may be a means of bettering my repentance, which is the greateſt " work I have to do.

" Here your Lordſhip ſees the reaſon of my warm oppoſition to the expunging of Sir " Thomas Hanmer's letter: the value of my purpoſed reſtitution muſt ſink with the value " of the book, and the more as it muſt unavoidably appear by this maim to be imperfect; " ſince the letter is referred to in a ſubſequent part of the volume; which was done long be- " fore I knew of any deſign there was to ſtrike it out. On the contrary, the letter I ſent " to your Lordſhip at Prior Park, about Michaelmas laſt, was wrote by the direction of the " Committee; which ſhews that the deſign then was to reprint the ſheet with Sir Thomas " Hanmer's letter a little cloſer, ſo as to make room for the ſubſtance of your Lordſhip's " anſwer to it. What reception my letter met with was never communicated to me. But " finding at a general meeting of all the Proprietors ſoon after, that it was reſolved to pub- " liſh the volume without either Sir Thomas Hanmer's letter or your Lordſhip's anſwer, I " entered my proteſt in writing againſt it. And though I afterwards conſented to the " publication, yet it was upon this condition, that the cancelled ſheet ſhould be deſtroyed; " which I have not been able to procure. It is ſtill kept in reſerve; and I need not tell " you, what may poſſibly be the conſequence of ſuch reſerve, or how liable it is to be in- " validated by ſuch ways, as may not be leſs diſagreeable to your Lordſhip than that ſheet.

" This, my Lord, I have drawn up my apology in as few words as I could, in hopes " that it may thereby obtain a favourable peruſal. But whatever fate it ſhall meet with, I " promiſe to kiſs the rod, in a full reſolution to make uſe of it for the correcting of that " warmth of temper, to which I am naturally, as well as your Lordſhip, too much ſubject.

" I have nothing more to add, but that I heartily wiſh you all poſſible ſucceſs in your " worthy labours for the ſervice of Religion; and am,

" My Lord,

" Your Lordſhip's

" Moſt obedient

" humble Servant,

" Philip Nichols,

" A poor penitent thief."

" January 11, 1763.
" From my Lodgings at Mr Lamkee's
" in Windſor Court, oppoſite to So-
" merſet Houſe in the Strand."

This addreſs was treated with the ſame contemptuous ſilence as the former; neither indeed had I room to hope for any better. Yet my deſign to publiſh Sir Thomas's *offenſive* letter remained ſtill in embryo for ſeveral months after, nor was I fixed in it till Midſummer; and that by the following unexpected incident.

It was about that ſeaſon when the gentleman who communicated the letter, having purchaſed ſome copies of the imperfect volume, came to me where I was, in one of the proprietors ſhops, and loudly complained of the affront put upon his kindneſs, and the injury done by the caſtration to the memory of Dr Joſeph Smith, in ſuppreſſing a conſpicuous teſtimony of reſpect and confidence ſhewn to him by a gentleman of ſo much diſtinguiſhed worth and honour as was Sir Thomas Hanmer. I aſſured him, that I was entirely in the ſame ſentiment, and had teſtified it by entering a proteſt in form againſt the injurious caſtration. And taking him aſide to a more convenient place, I acquainted him with my *deſign*. He was well pleaſed with it; and aſſuring me of ſuch aſſiſtance as he could give, had my abſolute promiſe to put it in execution. I alſo obtained a ſight of the originals of all three of Sir Thomas's letters, which enabling me to ſupply ſome omiſſions in the firſt printed copies; I ſoon after ſet about the performance of my promiſe, and had made ſome progreſs in it, when taking into my hands, for mere amuſement only, the Gentleman's Magazine for November 1762, I obſerved in the contents a paper intitled *The Natural Hiſtory of Hanmer*; and turning to it, I found this remark among others, where the author, ſpeaking of Sir Thomas, has theſe words. " This Sir Thomas Hanmer publiſhed an edition of Shake-" ſpeare, to which Mr Pope alludes, when he ſays,

" The white-glov'd Knight retir'd with decent rage,
" Withdrew his hand, and clos'd the pompous page.
" Three hundred gold cap't youths in order wait,
" To lug the pond'rous volume off in ſtate."

The ſecret poiſon conveyed in the " white gloves" had eluded my beſt conjectures, when it was firſt, in ſome meaſure, diſcovered to me by the ingenious and honourable Thomas Hervey, Eſq; (*i*) This delicate gentleman burſting into a rage, like that of his brother in warmth, Mr Warburton, and upon the like diſhonourable treſpaſs upon his property, as diſhonourably charged too upon the Baronet, picked up with laudable induſtry all the dirty ſcandal he could any where find againſt him, and very judiciouſly ſelected this curious anecdote of the *white gloves*, to give a proper point to another of the like manufacture. The ſtory is mirthfully told, and profeſſedly wrapt up in as decent terms as the ſubject would admit. This deſperate foe having in his rage cruelly expoſed a letter to Sir Thomas from his lady (*k*), finely enriched with an ambiguous paſſage, the purport of which was,

(*i*) A letter from the Hon. Thomas Hervey to Sir Thomas Hanmer, Bart.

(*k*) Her name was Iſabella, daughter and heir of Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington, and widow and relict of Henry Duke of Grafton. She was married to Sir Thomas Hanmer in 1698. (Collins's Baronettage, under Sir Thomas's article.) The honourable Mr Hervey, having ſeduced this lady, procured from her all the right ſhe could give him to the reverſion of an eſtate called *Barton*, which ſhe had brought her huſband on the marriage. It will not be impertinent, for the reaſon hereafter mentioned, to draw out an extract of the ſeducer's letter to Sir Thomas, when he was about to ſell the timber upon that eſtate.

' Sir,

' Having had an intimation at your door, that it would be of little uſe to me to multiply my viſits, I thought it neceſſary ' to give you this trouble.—— As your pretended quarrel to me muſt be grounded on my behaviour to your wife, I am ' proud of it: having done nothing towards you, but what any man of the ſtricteſt *honour* might have done: nothing to-' wards her, but what every generous and well-natured man *ought* to have done; and you know, as ſhe had ſenſe and ' ſpirit enough at laſt to aſſert her freedom, you ought to thank heaven, that ſhe happened to throw herſelf into the arms ' of a Son of Lord Briſtol. I waited on you, Sir, to aſk a piece of *juſtice* of you, not a favour: for of all mankind You ' are the laſt perſon to whom I would be obliged. I am informed, that you have ſent orders into Wales, to cut down all ' the timber upon the eſtate, of which I have the reverſion; the execution whereof I hoped to reſpite, by remonſtrating ' to you, that it would have been a little more becoming you as a gentleman, to have offered me the refuſal of it.—Never-' theleſs, I am ſtill deſirous to purchaſe the wood, &c.'

To this Sir Thomas's anſwer was,

' Sir,

' I little thought I ſhould be laid under the neceſſity of denying you admittance to my houſe, and of declining any cor-' reſpondence with you, becauſe I imagined it impoſſible that you ſhould ever ſeek either. To hear that called a demand ' of *juſtice*, which you now make the ſubject of your letter, is another ſurprize to me; for I think I have the common ' right of all mankind, to diſpoſe as I pleaſe of my own; which right I ſhall always exerciſe without aſking any perſon's ' conſent: And therefore, my anſwer muſt be, that I am inclined to deal with others for the wood I have to ſell, rather ' than with you. I am,

' Your humble Servant,

' December 12, 1741. ' Thomas Hanmer.'

Mr Hervey's Letter, p. 2, 3, 4. Third edition, 1753, 8vo.

The reader will not want a feſcue to point out the exactneſs of the parallel between the caſes of Meſſrs Hervey and Warburton; the like charge of diſhonour is alike diſhonourably ſuggeſted by them, and Sir Thomas's right to diſpoſe of his own property equally aſſerted by him in both. The congruity and connection likewiſe between the two caſes in point of time is ſomewhat remarkable. Sir Thomas's letter to Mr Hervey bears date December 12, 1741, and his account of Mr Warburton's quarrel with him is dated October 28, following, which letter was occaſioned by his offer to make a preſent of his copy of Shakeſpeare to the Univerſity of Oxford. Not to mention a paſſage in his firſt letter to Dr Smith on that ſubject, dated March 18, 1741-2, where he ſpeaks of a delay that would neceſſarily happen to the publication of the work by his being obliged to take a journey into Wales in the ſummer, the buſineſs of which apparently was to treat for the ſale of the timber objected to him by Mr Hervey. See the caſtrated ſheet in *Biographia Britannica* printed herewith.

You

[* * * * * * * * * * *]

You know I am the only woman in my circumſtances who would have behaved to you as I have done. ‘ This inuendo,’ proceeds the diligent Expoſitor, ‘ was by other animadverters on ‘ it thought equal to its analyſis: Yet I who was determined not to proceed upon preſump- ‘ tions or ſurmiſes, by perſecuting her with my *importunacy* (though ſhe often put by my ſuit ‘ with ſighs and tears, as was natural to a woman of her modeſty) at laſt obtained an ex- ‘ planation of it. She aſſured me, that you never had had the leaſt knowledge of her; ‘ and that although ſhe deſpiſed you for it, ſhe thought it the only happy circumſtance of ‘ her wretched life. And ſhe ſeemed really as much pleaſed with the *delivery* of her ſe- ‘ cret, as a poor woman after a hard labour could be with the production of her child. ‘ Yet I could not help recurring to it again, and aſking ſome farther queſtions, in as decent ‘ terms as I could find to expreſs myſelf, which, though they made her bluſh (poor ‘ wretch!) I remember made her laugh. What! ſaid I, did he never attempt to conſum- ‘ mate? Did he never *try* to PIN the matrimonial BASKET? Upon which ſhe averred to ‘ me, ſhe could not certify you was a man, if ſhe were called upon for ſuch an atteſtation. ‘ That you once made ſome little feint towards joining of your perſons on the wedding ‘ night, and the next morning begged pardon for her diſappointment, but from thence ‘ took no more notice of her than if you had forgotten her ſex: *which probably, Sir, if* ‘ *you did not take a pair of* white gloves * *to bed with you, you never was at all acquainted* ‘ *with.* I do not wonder at your aſſerting your *natural* rights † with ſo much warmth, it ‘ ſeems you have ſo few to ſpare (*l*).’

AFTER all, if the Bart. was ever honoured with the title of the White-gloved Knight by Mr Pope, I am willing to believe it muſt be in ſome ſpurious edition of the Dunciad, or at leaſt was not ſuffered to keep its place there long. The ſcandal was too dirty in itſelf, and too weakly ſupported, for either Mr Pope or his Commentator to retail in expreſs words. The Calumny, it was well obſerved, would be more palatable enwrapt in the veil of the *decent* Knight; a cover which would naturally excite a curioſity to lift it up, in order to ſee the *white gloves* concealed under it.

IN ſhort, the ſhafts of theſe two authors wit were launched chiefly in this poem againſt Sir Thomas as a Critic; and it is pleaſant enough to behold the choice variety of colours employed to blazon him in that character for a dunce. Thus, in the firſt quarto edition of the fourth book of that celebrated poem, publiſhed ſeparately by Mr Pope in 1742, it was thought ſufficient to inſert thoſe two lines only, without any comment:

The decent Knight retir'd with ſober rage,
Withdrew his hand, and clos'd the pompous page.

But in the edition printed likewiſe in quarto the next year, the Decent Knight is explained in the comment thus: “ An eminent perſon, who was about to publiſh a very pompous “ edition of a great author *at his own expence.*” Theſe laſt words are printed in an Italic letter, as being of dubious authority at beſt, and which indeed proved not to be ſtrictly true (*m*). In this edition are likewiſe ſeen four lines filled only with aſteriſms, and without any comment. In another edition the ſame year 1743, an alteration was made in the ſecond line thus:

The decent Knight retir'd with ſober rage,
“ What! no reſpect,” he cry'd, “ for Shakeſpeare's page?”

To theſe were added,

But happy for him, as the times went then,
Appear'd Apollo's May'r and Aldermen,
On whom three hundred gold-capt youths await,
To lug the pond'rous volume off in ſtate.

To which is ſubjoined the following comment: “ V. 114, &c. *Shakeſpeare's page.*] An “ Edition of that author, with his text arbitrarily altered throughout, was at this time “ printing at the univerſity-preſs, by the encouragement of the Vice-chancellor and certain “ Heads of Houſes; who ſubſcribed for three hundred, to be taken off by the Gentlemen-

* An alluſion (ſays the writer) to a ſtory your Friends uſed to tell of you at the Britiſh Chocolate Houſe.
† A reference to your own letter to me.
(*l*) Mr Hervey's Letter, &c. p. 27, 28, 29.
(*m*) It was printed at the expence of the Univerſity.

“ Com-

" Commoners." In another edition printed in 1752, 8vo. this remark was again altered for the following: " Theſe four lines were printed in a ſeparate leaf by Mr Pope, in the " laſt edition which he himſelf gave of the Dunciad, with directions to the printer to put " this leaf into this place, as ſoon as T. H.'s Shakeſpeare ſhould be publiſhed."—— Such were the dire effects of Sir Thomas Hanmer's unfortunate connexion with Mr Warburton. The malevolent ſpirit ſcattered, we ſee, his nauſeous ſlaver over the Univerſity. However, (if I may borrow the proverb) *to give the devil his due*, this reflection upon that learned body is not altogether profligate, nor even entirely without an excuſe, as a proper retaliation for the unmerited affront which had been put upon the author of it, by flattering him into the acceptance of an unmeaning compliment in the offer of the degree of D. D., the grace for which was afterwards carried in the negative.

But for a further account of this notorious affront, I refer to Mr Pope's article in Biographia Britannica, Vol. V. p. 3414. Remark [*EE*]. And ſhall conclude with repeating a declaration already made; That whatever is here ſaid is ſaid only to Mr Warburton the critic and author, and not to the Right Reverend William Lord Biſhop of Glouceſter, which character has and ſhall always be held ſacred by me. And it is with the moſt ſincere regard to the dignity of it, that I preſume humbly to recommend to his Lordſhip's ſerious application the leſſon couched in the words of Capnio, which is ſet, with the ſame deſign, at the head of this paper;

QUANTUM INGENII, TANTUM IRÆ.

FINI

CMC
MVSEVM
BRITANNICVM